

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 150330Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6177

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 5818

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, SW, NO, CSCE

SUBJECT: SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S COMMENT ON SAKHAROV CASE

REF: STOCKHOLM 5762 (NOTAL)

1. IN AN INTERVIEW BROADCAST ON SWEDISH TELEVISION NOVEMBER 13, FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSSON STATED THAT, IN HIS OPINION, SOVIET NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER SAKHAROV "SHOULD HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO GO TO OSLO, IF WE JUDGE THE CASE ACCORDING TO SWEDISH PRINCIPLES AND CONDITIONS IN THIS COUNTRYAM" IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE SAKHAROV CASE FELL UNDER THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT CALLING FOR GREATER FREEDOM TO TRAVEL, ANDERSSON REPLIED "NO, THAT IS DIFFERENT," ADDING THAT SAKHAROV IS A "SPECIAL CASE" AND "WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE VERY TOUGH RESTRICTIONS FOR SOVIET CITIZENS WITH REGARD TO TRAVEL." IN THE CASE OF SAKHAROV, THE FOREIGN
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MINISTER SAID, "THERE IS A SPECIAL DECISION WHICH CONFIRMS

THESE RESTRICTIONS."

2. ANDERSSON WAS ALSO ASKED ABOUT THE FAMILY OF SOVIET DEFECTOR VALENTIN AGAPOV, WHICH IS SEEKING PERMISSION TO JOIN HIM IN SWEDEN (STOCKHOLM 5672). THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE GOS IS STILL AWAITING A REPLY FROM THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO THE REQUEST OF THE SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW FOR PERMISSION FOR THE AGAPOV FAMILY TO LEAVE THE USSR ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO A COMMENT FROM THE REPORTER THAT IN VIEW OF THE AGAPOV CASE THERE DID NOT APPEAR TO BE A "BURNING DESIRE" ON THE SOVIET SIDE TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, ANDERSSON REPLIED THAT SINCE IT HAS ONLY BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE HELSINKI, "IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL NOT ACT IN THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT." THE FOREIGN MINISTER ADDED THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE EASED CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS IN RECENT YEARS, AND CITED AS AN EXAMPLE THE EMIGRATION OF JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION.
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